1	2	3
33.	Daman & Diu	7.5
34.	Lakshadweep	10.6
35.	Pondicherry	132.3
	TOTAL:	41196.7

Meeting of Labour Ministers

574. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are calling a meeting of all the State Labour Ministers for the implementation of the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996; and

(b) whether it is not mandatory for the State Governments to implement these Central Acts and to frame rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 (Main Act) and the Building and Other Construction Workers'Welfare Cess Act, 1996 extend to the whole of India. However, Section 63 of the Main Act provides that nothing contained in this Act shall affect the operation of any corresponding law in a State providing welfare schemes which are more beneficial to the building and other construction workers than those provided under the Act. The power to frame rules under the Main Act lies with the appropriate Government.

Launching of Khetihar Mazdoor Bima Yojana

575. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a social security cover namely Khetihar Mazdoor Bima Yojana for the landless agricultural workers has been launched; and

(b) if so, the details of the said Yojana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Government has launched "Krishi Sharmik Samajik Suraksha Yojana—2001". The scheme will be implemented by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in a phased manner and will cover the following social security needs of agricultural workers including landless agricultural workers.

(a) Life-cum-accidcnt insurance

(b) Money back

(c) Superannuation benefits.

Agricultural workers between the age of 18 years to 50 years are eligible for the Scheme. The worker will contribute Rs. 1/—per day and Government of India will contribute Rs.2/—per day under the scheme. Initially, the scheme will cover 10 lakh agricultural workers in 50 districts over a period of three years.

Holding of Corpus of E.P.F. in Special Deposit Scheme

576. SHRI DIPANKER MUKHERJEE:

SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will

the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that almost 80 per cent of the corpus of the Employees Provident Fund is now held in Special Deposit Scheme (SDS);

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Central Board of Trustees, of Employees' Provident Fund had unanimously recommended to make the interest-rate reduction on SDS applicable only to future accretions in the scheme and continue to pay @ 12 per cent on the outstanding balance in SDS as on 31st March, 2000 and @ 11 per cent on the balance as on 31st March, 2001; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) 78.74% of the total corpus of the Employees Provident Fund was in the Special Deposit Scheme (SDS) account as on 30.6.2001.